

TITLE
MEDICATION PACKAGE AND METHOD

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to United States Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/453,297, filed March 10, 2003.

BACKGROUND

The invention generally relates to packages and containers for medication, and more particularly, to a medication package and associated method for anti-diversion detection and compliance monitoring.

Adherence to prescription medication dosing schedules is often problematic for both the patient and the physician. Forgetting to take medications, or non-compliance, results in poor patient outcome and often is not reported to the prescribing physician by the patient. This can result in the physician increasing the dosage or changing to a different class of medication because of apparent ineffectiveness. Conversely, the taking of medications too frequently, or abuse, can have dangerous consequences for the patient. There is also a problem with diversion of the medication. Hereinafter, "diversion" will be used to refer the diversion of a medication with abuse potential from the intended legitimate patient population to an illicit market. The non-medical use and diversion of prescription drugs such as opioids, stimulants and central nervous system depressants can lead to abuse, addiction, and even death. While doctors and pharmacists often attempt to assure medications are being dispensed and used as prescribed, diversion of medications to the illicit market has risen to unprecedeted levels. Currently, there